

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABU DH 01747 121056Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /011 W
-----121108Z 041759 /16

R 121010Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6216
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 1747

STADIS////////////////////////////////

FROM THE AMBASSADOR

FOR NEA ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CFED, SA, KU, TC, US
SUBJ: GAO SURVEY ON AVAILABILITY AND SECURITY US OIL SUPPLIES

REF: STATE 133381

1. PROPOSED GAO SURVEY SHOULD BE AT LEAST FOURTH GAO STUDY SINCE 1972 ON AVAILABILITY AND SECURITY OF US OIL SUPPLIES IN MIDDLE EAST. THERE WERE AT LEAST THREE WHEN I WAS IN NEA/ARP. ON EACH OCCASION AS I RECALL, GAO INSISTED ON SENDING THEIR PEOPLE INTO THE FIELD, PARTICULARLY SAUDI ARABIA, KUWAIT AND UAE EVEN THOUGH PLENTY OF INFORMATION WAS AT HAND IN WASHINGTON. ALTHOUGH GAO HAS IN PAST AMASSED MUCH MATERIAL, THEIR WRITTEN REPORTS HAVE BEEN PITIFULLY POOR. PROBLEM HAS BEEN THAT PERSONS ASSIGNED TO DO JOB DO NOT HAVE BACKGROUND, EDUCATION, OR GENERAL POLITICAL BREADTH TO DO A GOOD JOB. AS A RESULT, SEVERAL GAO REPORTS HAVE NEVER BEEN PUBLISHED BECAUSE OF THEIR POOR
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QUALITY. (I KNOW BECAUSE I HAVE HAD TO COMMENT ON A NUMBER OF DRAFTS.)

2. WE WOULD NOT HAVE A PROBLEM IN BRIEFING GAO TEAM WISHING TO VISIT UAE. ALSO BELIEVE IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE MEETINGS WITH KNOWLEDGEABLE UAE OFFICIALS AS WELL AS COMPANY OFFICIALS IF WE EXPLAIN THAT GAO

IS ARM OF CONGRESS AND THAT PURPOSE OF THEIR VISIT
IS BETTER TO EDUCATE CONGRESS ON POLITICAL FACTORS
THAT INFLUENCE OIL POLICY DECISIONS. PROBLEM IS THAT
FEW KEY UAE PETROLEUM POLICY MAKERS OFTEN ARE NOT
IN TOWN AND APPOINTMENTS MADE LONG IN ADVANCE HAVE A
HABIT OF BEING CANCELLED AT LAST MINUTE. HOWEVER, I WOULD
NOT WANT TO MAKE APPOINTMENTS WITH UAE
PETROLEUM OFFICIALS UNTIL I HAD CHANCE TO MEET TEAM
MEMBERS FIRST TO JUDGE THEIR QUALITY AND CLEAR GROUND
RULES ARE ESTABLISHED THAT ANY COMMENTS BY UAE OFFICIALS
AND OIL COMPANY OFFICIALS WOULD BE FOR BACKGROUND ONLY
AND NOT FOR ATTRIBUTION.

3. TIMING OF VISIT IN OCTOBER SHOULD BE SATISFACTORY
SINCE WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE MAJOR OPEC ISSUES AT THAT
TIME. BELIEVE GAO TEAM WOULD NOT NEED MORE THAN TWO
DAYS IN UAE.
DICKMAN

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Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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